Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

23 November 2007

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: November 19, 2007

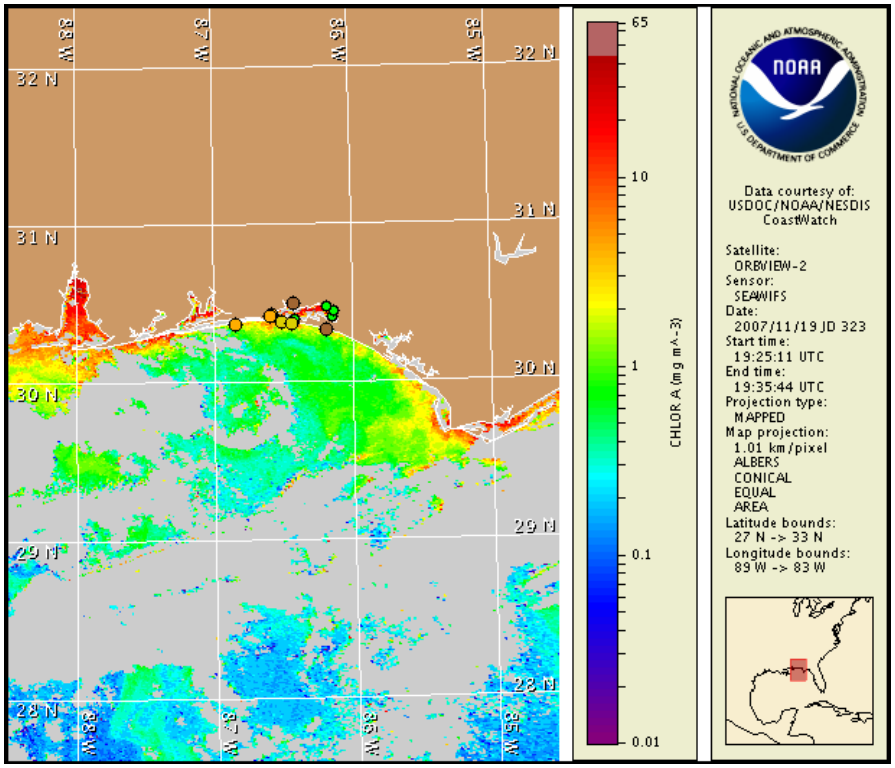
Conditions Report

A harmful algal bloom has been identified in patches from Gulf County, Florida to Mobile County, Alabama. Today through Sunday, patchy high impacts are possible in bay regions of Gulf County and patchy moderate impacts are possible in bay regions of Okaloosa County, Florida and Baldwin County, Alabama. Today through Saturday, patchy very low impacts are possible in coastal Walton, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Escambia Counties, Florida and Baldwin and Mobile Counties, Alabama. On Sunday, patchy low impacts are possible in coastal regions of Walton and Escambia Counties, Florida and Mobile County, Alabama. Also on Sunday, patchy moderate impacts are possible for coastal regions of Okaloosa and Santa Rosa Counties, Florida and Baldwin County, Alabama.

Analysis

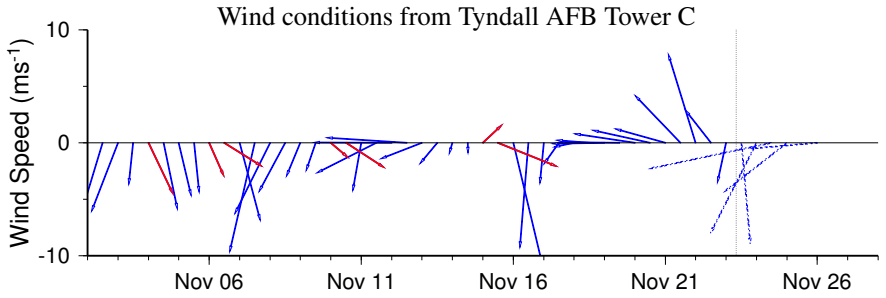
The harmful algal bloom persists in patches from Gulf County, Florida to Baldwin County, Alabama and has expanded westward into Mobile County, Alabama. Recent sample results indicate 'low b' levels of *Karenia brevis* in Mobile County, Alabama and 'medium' levels in Baldwin County, Alabama (Alabama Dept. of Public Health; 11/19). Recent samples from Santa Rosa to Walton Counties indicate 'low a' to 'medium' levels of *K. brevis* (FWRI, 11/19). Satellite imagery (11/19) indicates the continued presence of elevated chlorophyll levels (>3m g/L) from Mobile County, Alabama to the eastern border of Escambia County. The elevated patch of chlorophyll located onshore Okaloosa County also remains. From eastern Bay County to Gulf County, chlorophyll levels have dissipated and increased in patchiness. Numerous reports of dead fish have been received from Walton and Okaloosa counties over the past few days. Onshore winds will increase the potential for impacts on Sunday. Intensification of the bloom is unlikely.

Urizar, Keller



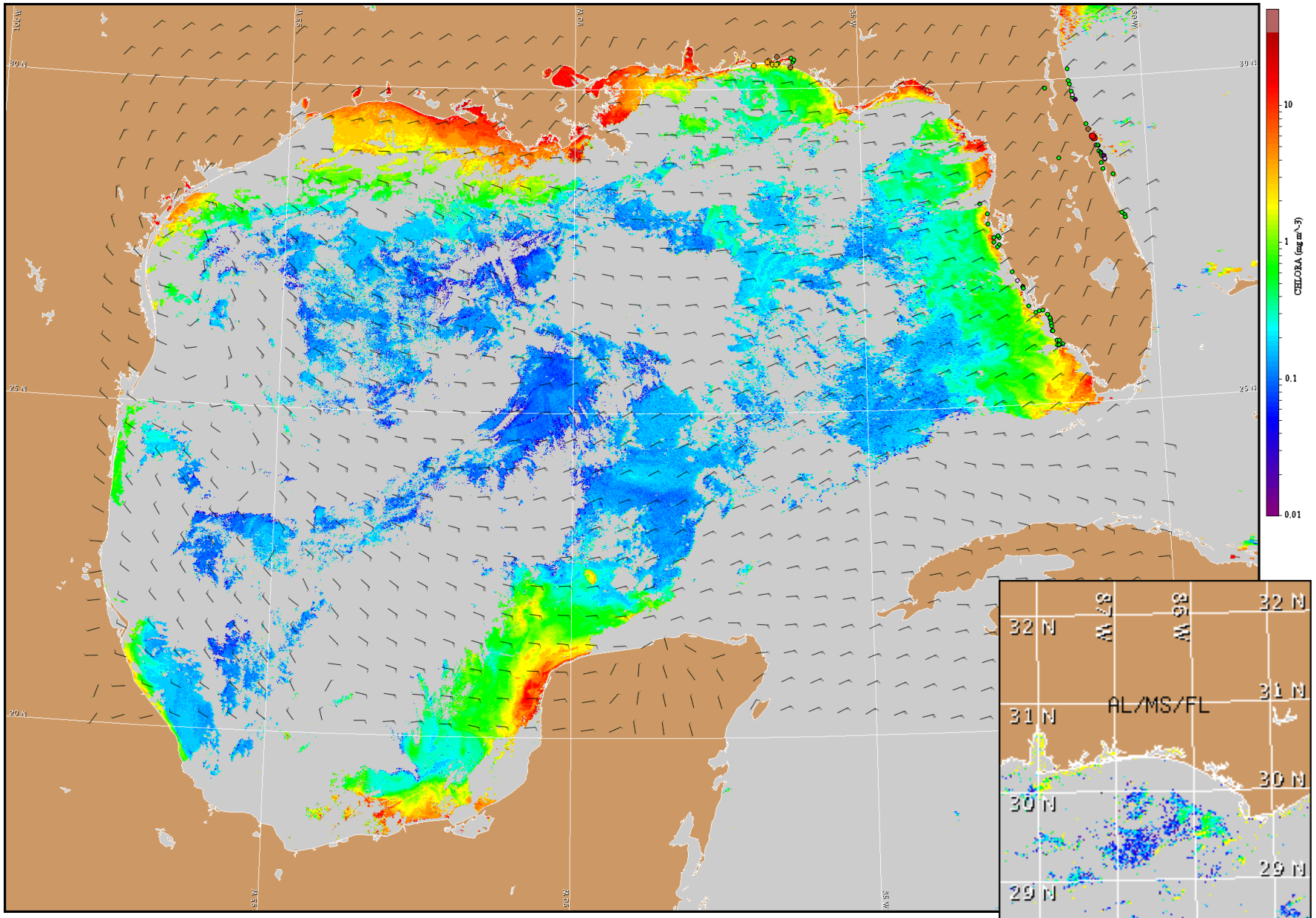
Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from November 13 to 20 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide:

http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

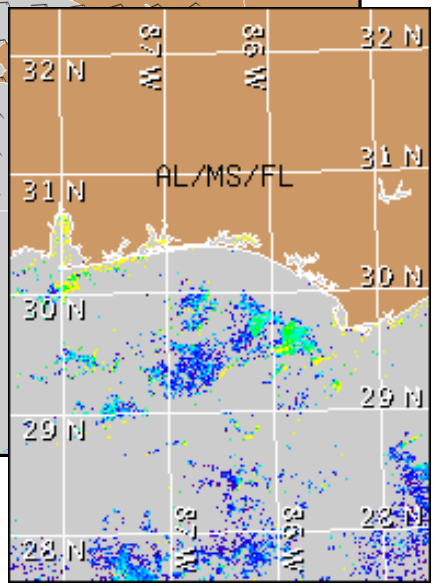


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

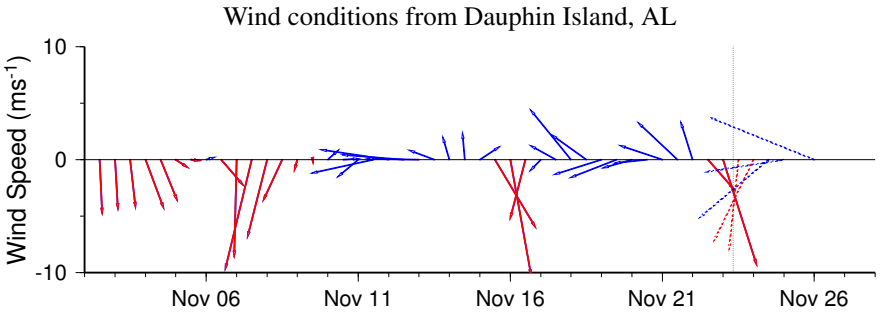
NW Florida: Northerlies today (20-25 kt, 10-23 m/s). Northeasterlies tonight (15-20 kt, 8-10 m/s). Easterlies Saturday (15-25 kt, 8-23 m/s). Southerlies Sunday (10-15 kt, 5-8 m/s).



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for November 24, 2007 12Z with Cell concentration sampling data from November 13 to 20 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide: http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf



Verifi ed and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).


Wind conditions from Dauphin Island, AL
Wind Speed (ms-1)
10
0
-10
Nov 06
Nov 11
Nov 16
Nov 21
Nov 26